



RCAS NEWS



JANUARY 2017

FY17 VOLUME II

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **RPAM Next**
- **PL Corner**
- **RCAS Customer Engagement Portal**
- **Meet your new RCAS Requirements Manager**
- **RCAS Release News**
- **RCAS Release Town Hall News**
- **DLP Classroom Modernization**
- **Trouble Tracking SRP Stats-Let RCAS Help**
- **Upcoming Conference/Event Support**
- **RCAS Training Corner**

NEED HELP?

HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TRAINING?

Contact a service desk
for assistance:

Army National Guard
(ARNG)

1-800-821-3097 (toll free)

United States Army
Reserve (USAR)

1-855-558-7272 (toll free)

RPAM NEXT—WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) application is being reengineered to support modernization and improve functionality. Starting with Fiscal Year (FY) 18, all RPAM users will see the new "RPAM Next" application link to the reengineered RPAM application.

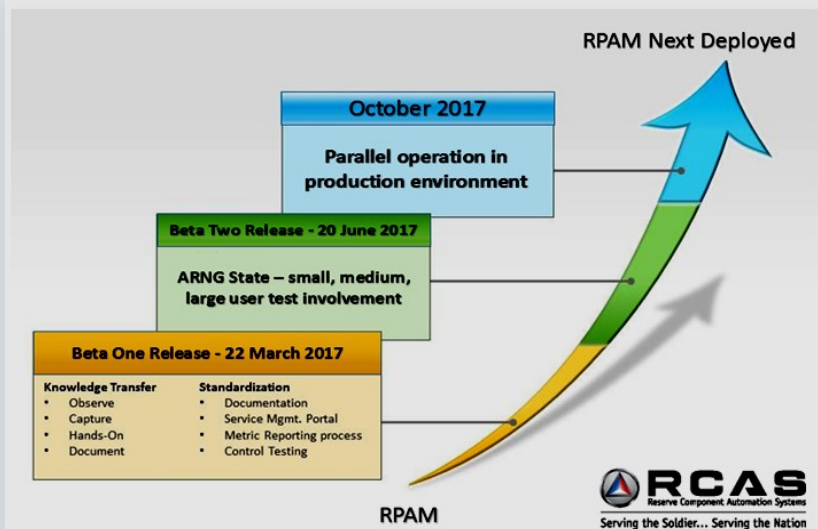
The RPAM reengineering is extensive and will depend on volunteers from Army National Guard (ARNG)

States/Sites small, medium and large in size to support beta testing. Functional users and data processing community from participating sites must fully commit to completing the beta testing in coordination with the RCAS RPAM Next Team. The Team will coordinate with potential beta test sites in the coming months to ensure the reengineered RPAM application is deployed on schedule in October 2017 as illustrated in the timeline diagram above.

Why is RPAM being reengineered?

RPAM uses Silverlight, a Microsoft plug-in for browsers supporting interactive web features, such as video, to deliver content to end users. Microsoft added a new browser, Edge, to Windows 10 that does not support plug-ins. Therefore, Windows 10 Edge will not support Silverlight. Internet Explorer (IE) 11 will still be included on the Army Gold Master (AGM) image for Windows 10. While Silverlight 5 will be supported until 2021, no further development will occur for the product; and, RCAS will convert its use of Silverlight to supported alternatives. RCAS users should use IE 11 to experience full access to all features of RPAM and RPAM Next. RPAM and the rest of the RCAS suite of applications will be modified incrementally over four releases. When all compatibility with Edge is

RPAM Next Process Timeline



in place, RCAS will announce the availability of Edge to the user community.

Additionally, the RPAM reengineering will reduce current dependencies on Oracle, the primary database for RCAS applications and Information Exchanges, with a vendor-agnostic database that provides better value for licensing, maintenance costs and technical functionality.

RPAM is designed to expeditiously and accurately account for and report on retirement points for ARNG Soldiers, determine retirement eligibility and qualification based on years of creditable service, and retirement points earned. Because of this critical user functionality, our objective is to keep the current RPAM User Interface (UI) and overall functionality the same so that the transition is as seamless as possible. The RPAM Team will verify that RPAM Next maintains the UI and functionality of RPAM Legacy by conducting parallel operations in the production environment.

If your State/Site is interested in volunteering to beta test, or you need more information about RPAM Next, please contact the RCAS Personnel Product Owner, MAJ Shakena Evans by phone at 703-806-3149 or email at shakena.l.evans.mil@mail.mil.

PL CORNER



MR. RALPH OCASIO
ACTING PRODUCT LEAD

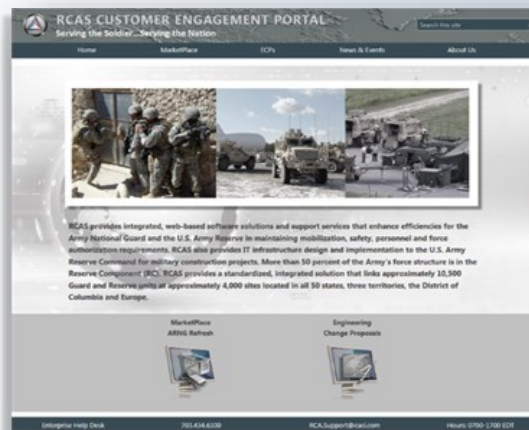
Let me begin by extending to you my very best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2017. And yes – “I’m Back” – but only temporarily to assist your RCAS team during the process of selecting a new Product Lead. A new year provides us the opportunity to reflect on both our past accomplishments, and what we need to do to improve in the future – I want you to know that your RCAS team has hit the ground running in 2017, and is anxious to continue delivery of the quality products and services you need to support your Soldiers and their units.

We are extremely proud of our 2016 effort supporting you in modernizing your respective information technology infrastructures and providing you the hardware products your Soldiers and units need to improve and maintain their operational capabilities. As you may know, we are working to further automate this process to make it more efficient and easier for you and your organizations to manage your systems. Please stay tuned for further information and reports on our progress – your input and feedback will be critical.

I am very pleased to see the continued progress being made in implementing and improving the AGILE software development methodology. The continuous collaboration going on between the ARNG and USAR user communities, the respective application product owners, and our industry partners remains a top priority in improving service and support to our Soldiers and their units.

Again, thank you for all you continue to do for our Soldiers; as well as your interest in what our team is doing - we look forward to continuing to serve you...Be safe out there....

RCAS CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT PORTAL



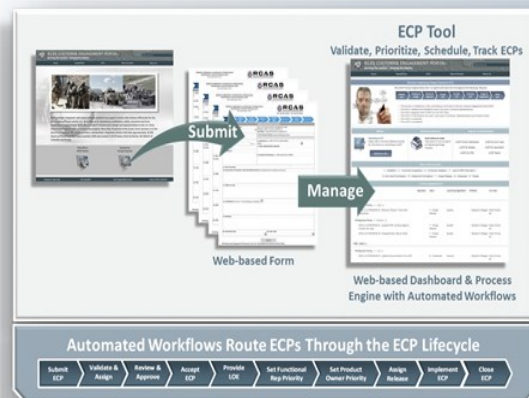
RCAS Customer Engagement Portal

The Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Program Office will launch the RCAS Customer Engagement Portal (RCEP) in February 2017. RCEP is designed to provide program transparency and increase Program Office efficiency through the automation of manual processes. The RCEP will initially provide users with the following capabilities: (1) Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) and (2) Marketplace.

Engineering Change Proposal (ECP)

The Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) tool will allow users to submit ECPs in an automated manner. The ECPs are routed by automated workflows to Requirements POCs, Functional Managers and Product Owners for validation, prioritization and implementation. The tool will allow users to track their ECPs and have visibility into how their requests are prioritized against other requests from a priority perspective throughout the life of the ECP. The ECP Tool is scheduled to launch later this Fiscal Year.

MarketPlace



Engineering Change Request Overview

MarketPlace automates the existing Equipment Refresh Ordering process. It allows State/Territory Technical POCs to submit Equipment Refresh Orders using the portal. The Equipment Refresh Orders are then routed by automated workflows to Hardware/Software Engineers and RCAS Requirements Managers for validation and consolidation. Once the orders are approved by the ARNG G6, they are routed through the Request to Initiate Purchase (RIP) process, where the orders are fulfilled. Users can use the tool to track their Equipment Refresh Orders throughout the procurement cycle.



MarketPlace Overview

MarketPlace is scheduled to launch in March 2017 and will be available for use in the upcoming 2017 ARNG Refresh.

For more information on the new RCEP, ECP or MarketPlace portals, please contact the RCAS Chief Technology Officer, Ms. Angela Green-Mack by phone at 703-806-3089 or by email at angela.d.green-mack.civ@mail.mil or the RCAS Requirements Manager, Mr. Walter Farrell by phone at 703-806-3414 or by email at walter.m.farrell.civ@mail.mil.



MEET YOUR NEW RCAS REQUIREMENTS MANAGER



MR. WALTER M. FARRELL

Mr. Walter M. Farrell joined the RCAS Team in October 2016 as a Program Management Specialist responsible for RCAS requirements management. As the RCAS Requirements Manager, Walter ensures the successful accomplishment of the Requirements Control Board meetings, oversees the electronic Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) process, RCAS hardware refresh program and many other duties.

Walter has over 27 years of combined Department of the Army and Government civilian experience. He retired from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major after serving as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Deputy Commander (Forward), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Walter has held various assignments on active duty including an overseas assignment at Camp Ederle, Italy where he played a crucial role in leading the management and tracking of Class II, III, IV, V, and IX materials for the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and the 13th Military Police Company. Before joining the RCAS Team, Walter served as a Supervisory Logistics Management Specialist within the Department of Logistics at the Joint Pathology Center in Silver Springs, Maryland with responsibility for supporting all phases of the organization's day-to-day operations for "readiness" program management.

Walter has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Trident University in Cypress, California and completed training for Level III Life Cycle Logistics and Program Management from the Defense Acquisition University.

During his free time Walter enjoys sports, especially basketball and soccer. He also enjoys history and going to museums and participates in outreach programs through his church, mentoring young children.

RCAS RELEASE NEWS

RCAS Release 7.1.1—January 2017



In December 2016 the Software Sustainment Division changed its name to the RCAS Application Management Division (AMD) to better reflect our mission.

The Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army (IPPS-A) is subsuming the RCAS Unit Personnel System / Command Management System (UPS/CMS) and Military Personnel Office (MilPO) Orders applications in the FY18/19 timeframe and the Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) application will follow during FY20/21. The Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) will be the test state during the transition period, and RCAS will be actively engaged with IPPS-A and the PAARNG throughout the test cycle. RCAS is working closely with IPPS-A to ensure a smooth transition of these applications.

RCAS release 7.1.1 deployed 5 January 2017. The following enhancements along with other fixes and updates are included in the release:

- **Personnel (PERS):** The Personnel Qualification Report (PQR) has been updated to allow the user to add the number of enlistment extensions to the PQR Enlisted Report and the Basic Active Service Date (BASD) to the PQR for both Officers and Warrant Officers.
- **Safety and Occupational Health (SOH):** Updated chapters one through seven in the SOH Software User Manual (SUM). The Standard Army Safety and Occupational

Health Inspection (SASOHI) Master Checklist was updated to reflect changes in Army regulations.

- **Mobilization Planning and Data Viewer (MPDV):** A list of U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) MPDV Site Administrator Points-of-Contact is now located on the RCAS MPDV application website

homepage which will assist users in locating their administrator for account creation. Another enhancement will allow users to see a tab labeled Multi-Component Joint Assessment (MCJA). This enhancement over time will allow MCJA Administrators the ability to assign Enablers to select stations and create additional Enabler stations.

- **Force Authorization (FA):** The FA Team has made several updates to the Stationing Plan Submission Application (SPSA) which now allows auto population within a corrected copy of Originating Stationing Plan Data. In addition the SPSA user who views a stationing plan on the Search screen of the Archive tab will see a corrected copy in Completed Status with a corrected copy number added to the Archive Search screen to better allow users to search archived documents.

For more information on any RCAS Release, please contact Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, RCAS Application Management Division by phone at 703-806-3071 or by email at jim.n.cook.civ@mail.mil.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT RCB - 27 APRIL 2017

RCAS Requirements Control Board (RCB)

Date: Thursday, 27 April 2017 — Time: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Venue to be announced

RCAS RELEASE TOWN HALL NEWS

Mr. Jim Cook, Chief, Application Management Division (AMD), conducted the RCAS Town Hall on 8 December 2016 via Defense Collaboration Services (DCS) to the Army National Guard Community. A majority of States and Territories were in attendance to discuss a number of topics related to the upcoming installation of RCAS Release 7.1.1 in early January 2017 and Lessons Learned from the installation of RCAS Release 7.1.0.

Mr. Cook asked states and territories that are at RCAS Release 7.0.14 or below to contact the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Helpdesk at (844) 722-2373 and submit a trouble ticket for installation assistance.

Mr. Cook stressed again that following installation procedures and submitting Pre/Post Health Checks are vital to the successful installation of RCAS applications.



Installation videos will not be included in the 7.1.1 release. The videos were originally developed for previous releases due to the intricacies of installations. Beginning with RCAS Release 7.1.1, installations will be straight forward; therefore, the use of videos is not necessary. If a need for videos arises in the future, RCAS has the capability to develop and assist the States and Territories with installation.

Many more topics were addressed and may be viewed at the following

location on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/6748475>.

If you are interested in attending future Town Halls, please contact Ms. Rita Bartholomew at (703) 806-3119 or by email at rita.g.bartholomew.ctr@mail.mil. The community is encouraged to complete a brief survey <https://peoeissurvey.altess.army.mil/>

DLP CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION

The Army National Guard (ARNG) Distributed Learning Program (DLP) creates content for Guard-specific training requirements, provides access to the content through GuardU (an online learning portal), and enables delivery through a nationwide network of 392 ARNG DL classrooms. RCAS performs as the ARNG DLP fielding office for DL classrooms, as defined in a memorandum of agreement between the Director, ARNG, and the Program Executive Officer Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS). RCAS also provides sustainment services and technical support to State DL classroom administrators.

The ARNG Training Support Branch (office symbol ARNG-TRS), Training Division, ARNG G-3 manages the ARNG DL Program. RCAS and ARNG-TRS have partnered for 10 years to sustain and modernize the DL Classrooms. For 2017, significant resources will be invested into adding classrooms, modernizing and maintaining various models of the DL classrooms. Some of the major components being modernized



Greenwich Rhode Island—AV800 Modernized Classroom.
Photo Credit: Mr. Jeffrey Faulkner, RCAS DLP Program Manager.

include but are not limited to workstations, audio/visual equipment, and printers.

A major highlight which is planned for Fiscal Year (FY) 17 is the modernization effort to complete the refresh of the 50 remaining legacy Fixed DL Classrooms (FDLCs) with the latest baseline equipment. This effort will eliminate the analog baseline and move the DL program to an all-digital classroom across the enterprise. Along with completion of the modernization effort, RCAS will be adding new FDLC classrooms, increasing the total number of fielded systems, refreshing 40 Mobile Distributed Learning Classrooms (MDLC), and adding six new MDLCs. The total number of DLP classrooms is expected to grow to 401 by end of FY18.

For more information on the RCAS DLP please contact the RCAS Acquisition Infrastructure and Integration Division Chief, Ms. Wanda Dixon, by phone at 703-806-3427 or by e-mail at wanda.s.dixon2.civ@mail.mil.

RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYSTEMS—SERVING THE SOLDIER...SERVING THE NATION

TROUBLE TRACKING SRP STATS—LET RCAS HELP

The RCAS Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) application tracks the "Ready" or "Not Ready" status of Soldiers in real time throughout a Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) event. MPDV also allows Commanders and unit leadership to track the number of Soldiers processed into an event and continues to track them through each SRP station until they check-out. Soldiers can check into the event and its various processing stations using a Soldier's Common Access Card (CAC) which automatically pulls up the Soldiers information in MPDV. This saves valuable time and makes the process easier and much faster.

The RCAS MPDV Team is available to assist both Army National Guard (ARNG) and U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) units with the use of MPDV during an SRP event. The Team supported one such event on 4 and 5 November 2016 for the Mississippi ARNG (MSARNG) at Camp McCain, Mississippi. The two day event focused on processing approximately 150 Soldiers who were preparing for deployment.

The SRP event was expertly managed by the Officers-in-Charge (OICs), MAJ Stanley R.



MAJ Stanley R. Bazzill (L) and CPT Steven E. Nowlen (R), MSARNG SRP event OICs, check soldiers into the SRP on 5 Nov. Photo Credit: Mr. Max Dunn, RCAS MPDV Product Owner.



SFC John E. Quigley, MSARNG Force Development and SRP event NCOIC, uses MPDV to check soldiers out of the SRP. Check-out is final station all soldiers go to after completing all other stations. Check out is unique, as the operator can immediately tell if a soldier has not processed a station...you can't fool MPDV! Photo Credit: Mr. Max Dunn, RCAS MPDV Product Owner.

Bazzill and CPT Steven E. Nowlen and the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge (NCOIC), SFC John E. Quigley. The SRP layout allowed for controlled and efficient movement of Soldiers through the various stations. The MPDV application was used at each station to capture Soldier readiness data and track real time progress throughout the event using MPDV data analysis and reporting tools.

Let the RCAS MPDV Team assist with your next SRP event using this time-saving MPDV tool. RCAS offers MPDV Leadership Workshops, briefings and SRP support for all levels of command. This support is fully funded by RCAS so there is no cost to the field.

Want to know more about MPDV and what it can do for you? Go to the RCAS homepage on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093>. There you will have access to the latest MPDV information, briefings, contacts, the MPDV schedule of events and much more.

To request MPDV SRP support or a project briefing contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE/EVENT SUPPORT

RCAS is exhibiting and/or providing support at the following events:

Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Multi-Component Joint Assessment Conference (JAC) and SRP Support Events

Multi-Component JAC Support—Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
FY17, 5-9 February 2017

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops or conference events, visit the RCAS area for a software demonstration and to discuss RCAS products and services. The RCAS Team is available to provide briefings and answer RCAS related questions at various ARNG and USAR events.

To request RCAS participation at your next conference or workshop event, contact Mr. Max Dunn, MPDV Product Owner, by phone at 703-806-3128, or by e-mail at max.g.dunn.civ@mail.mil.

RCAS TRAINING CORNER

PREPARING TO MOBILIZE – When it's time to mobilize, soldiers must know how to use MPDV, the Mobilization Planning Data Viewer, an RCAS software application that streamlines Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP). In early January 2017, instructor Steve Longoria traveled to Fort Gillem, Georgia to conduct MPDV training for Soldiers from multiple Army Reserve Medical Command (AR-MEDCOM) units. To fully support Soldier readiness, Mr. Longoria stayed in Georgia and assisted with processing 100 soldiers a day during a week-long SRP event for 500 Soldiers. When inclement weather threatened the event, Mr. Longoria



RCAS instructor Mr. Steve Longoria and CPT Torres-Pollard, the Mobilization Officer, address soldier students at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel. Photo credit: Robert G. Medley, Chief, Training Director RCAS.

worked closely with CPT Jehovanna C. Torres-Pollard, the AR-MEDCOM Mobilization Officer, to prepare and perform the remaining training ahead of the bad weather. For safety during the storm, training was moved to the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, where Mr. Longoria and CPT Torres-Pollard continued to guide the troops toward a successful SRP. Thanks to quick response and solid teamwork, training was only postponed by a day, and the readiness mission was accomplished with minimal negative impact.

Once training was complete, soldiers demonstrated what they learned, rolling smoothly through the SRP event at Fort Gillem. Members from the 7388th Multi-Functional Medical Battalion, Fort Jackson, South Carolina were checked in at the Personnel and



Fort Gillem, Georgia - AR-MEDCOM soldiers checking in with Chaplain Ira Ehrenpreis. Photo Credit: RCAS instructor Mr. Steve Longoria.

Chaplain Stations. Mr. Robert Medley, Chief Training Director RCAS; LTC Ricardo Leon, AR-MEDCOM Mobilization Planner and LTC George Earley, USAR MEDCOM were all in attendance.



AR-MEDCOM conducting SRP at Fort Gillem. Soldiers put RCAS MPDV training to good use. Photo Credit: RCAS instructor Mr. Steve Longoria.

To schedule training for your organization, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley, RCAS Training Director, at 703-806-3163, Robert.G.Medley.civ@mail.mil, or contact Ms. Catherine Kent, RCAS Training Manager at 703-434-6231, Catherine.Kent@caci.com. Alternatively, you can submit a "Request for RCAS Training – APPLICATION NAME" helpdesk ticket through the NGB Helpdesk at ng.ncr.arng.mbx.helpdesk-ngb@mail.mil, or 800-821-3097. For the USAR, contact your Major Subordinate Command Point of Contact for RCAS application training.



We are on the web at

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/207093>

Want to provide input to RCAS News or be added to the distribution list, contact Mr. Robert G. Medley at robert.g.medley.civ@mail.mil.
Reserve Component Automation Systems, ATTN: RCAS, 6010 6th Street, Building 1465B, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060

**Integrated Web Based Software Applications; Distributed Learning Program;
Information Technology Infrastructure Integration and Refresh; and Requirements Management** Pg 6